

Executive Summary

Transforming Virginia's Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure

With bipartisan support and under the leadership of Governor Mark Warner, Secretary of Technology George Newstrom, Senator Walter Stosch, Delegate Sam Nixon, Delegate Joe May, and many others, Virginia created the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to provide cutting-edge IT services to the Commonwealth's agencies. By consolidating Virginia's IT services and data storage operations under the management of VITA, efficiencies can be achieved that will result in cost savings and improved service for Virginia's taxpayers.

The Virginia First Team (VA1) is pleased to offer a plan to partner with VITA to achieve these results. VA1 is a team of private sector, leading-edge companies willing to combine their unique global experiences and understanding of Virginia government's technology needs to successfully transform the Commonwealth's IT infrastructure and fulfill the vision set forth by Governor Warner and the Virginia General Assembly. The VA1 plan, in effect, converts Virginia's now decentralized IT infrastructure for all executive branch agencies into a secure, state-of-the-art data center with a remote backup facility that will function as one integrated system.

VA1's conceptual proposal, submitted under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA), offers VITA a partnership plan to consolidate the Commonwealth's IT infrastructure to reduce costs and to improve security and overall operational efficiency. VA1's proposed transformation will create effective operations and an agile environment required to respond to Virginia's current and future IT challenges.

VA1 also offers VITA a financing package that is all encompassing, innovative and, most importantly, requires no initial cash outlay. The VA1 financial plan provides a cost-effective and flexible vehicle for financing the entire project without encumbering the Commonwealth's balance sheet, debt capacity, or credit rating.

VA1's plan proposes to construct and operate two new data centers that will function as one integrated system. The primary data center will consist of approximately 100,000 square feet located in Richmond, Virginia; while a back-up data center of approximately 45,000 square feet will be located in Wise, Virginia. The two-location scenario will afford the Commonwealth of Virginia the ability to use state-of-the-art technology with the insurance of redundant infrastructure to minimize potential threat possibilities.

Each facility will consist of pre-cast concrete structural systems, walls and roof that are designed to withstand 120 mile-per-hour winds, and other seismic considerations. Hollow metal doors, security hardware, and minimal glass design will create an intrusion-proof envelope for the critical internal components. Both facilities will be outfitted with the newest state-of-the-art fiber optic data lines, computer equipment, and technology. The fiber optic data lines will feed into the building from two separate entries to minimize the risk of interrupted service.

Recognizing the need for the involvement and cooperation of all state agencies, VA1 has included in its proposal a strong public awareness component to educate and engage government agencies and relevant state employees in the merits of VITA's infrastructure transformation, the details of the integration plan and their own participation in the full implementation.

VA1's substantial experience and expertise in working with state governments on similar complex projects helps us to understand the challenges VITA may face in this IT transformation. VA1 members have encountered and overcome the technical, cultural, and administrative challenges associated with similar projects of this scope and importance. Therefore, VA1 is confident that it can partner with VITA to improve the IT infrastructure and capabilities of the Commonwealth and its service to the citizens.

The Virginia First Team

VA1 has the expertise and experience to partner with VITA to achieve success on this ambitious project. From building design to data conversion, from construction to security controls, and from financing to service marketing and affiliated public affairs, VA1 has assembled an outstanding team that VITA and the Commonwealth can depend on to meet Virginia government's IT needs. VA1 and its subcontractors include many small, woman-owned and minority-owned (SWAM) businesses such as Code X, Inc. and Pathwise Partners. VA1 is proud to support these types of quality companies and is committed to exceeding the Commonwealth's own procurement requirements for SWAM businesses.

Koll Development Company (KDC), the VA1 lead, will be responsible for securing the financing for the project and for ongoing facilities management. KDC is one of the nation's leading commercial real estate firms and provides a full range of development and project management services. The Staubach Company, Inc., the only national firm solely devoted to users of office, industrial, and retail space, will assist the Commonwealth and VITA in locating an appropriate site for the Richmond data center and has recommended the Wise site for VITA's consideration. Ellerbe Becket, one of the nation's largest architectural firms, with extensive experience in designing secure data facilities throughout the country, will design the two VITA data center facilities. Thompson + Litton, an award-winning, Wise, Virginia-based engineering and architectural firm will also provide architectural services for the project. DPR Construction, Inc., will construct the two data center facilities to house the consolidated platforms and operations (processing, help desks, and network operations). DPR is a national construction firm with a Richmond office and is nationally recognized for delivering technically demanding projects. EDS, a pioneer in systems integration, with the resources of 138,000 employees worldwide, including several thousand employees in Virginia, will provide the technological solutions and systems integration for the project. Troutman Sanders LLP, a multi-service law firm with offices in Richmond, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia and with experience in PPEA and its predecessor, the Public-Private Transportation Act, will provide counsel and government relations services. Capital Results, a Richmond-based public affairs and issue management firm with a proven record of successfully generating support for complex issues, will provide public relations and communications services.